

BIRD STUDY NUMBER 8

Study Title: Assessment of Injuries to Reproductive Success of
Black-legged Kittiwakes in Prince William Sound

Lead Agency: USFWS

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Black-legged kittiwakes are the most abundant colonial nesting seabird in Prince William Sound. The objectives of this study were to: test for changes in reproductive success of kittiwakes nesting in oiled areas; determine if adult kittiwakes were contaminated by oil; test unhatched eggs and prey delivered to chicks for hydrocarbon content; and identify potential restoration of losses.

Preliminary results revealed a significantly lower reproductive success for kittiwakes in oiled areas compared to un-oiled areas, however, analysis is not complete. Kittiwakes were contaminated externally as preliminary results show that 37% of birds observed at oiled colonies had oil on the breast feathers. Analysis of hydrocarbon content of kittiwakes, prey samples, and eggs, has not been conducted to date.

A preliminary report of results has been prepared for this study but comprehensive data synthesis and analysis have not been completed and, in some cases, has not been initiated. Data analysis and the preparation of a final report will be essential for understanding the injuries the spill caused to black-legged kittiwakes of Prince William Sound. If this information is not clearly and completely available to those responsible for restoration, it will not be possible to adequately address the restoration needs of the resource.

BUDGET (\$K)

Salaries	\$ 6.5
Travel	0.0
Contractual	0.0
Commodities	0.0
Equipment	0.0
Other Non-Contractual	0.0
Subtotal	<u>\$ 6.5</u>
General Administration	1.0
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Total \$ 7.5